

Rock Barrier

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 555



DEFINITION

A Rock Barrier is a retaining wall constructed of rock across the slope to form and support a bench terrace on sloping land.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Rock barriers are applicable to sloping land suitable for cultivation where the soil depth is adequate for benching. The slopes can be as much as 50 percent which means each 100 feet across the of slope would have an elevation difference of approximately 50 feet. Therefore, this practice can provide

acceptable stability on very steep cultivated soils.

The purpose of a rock barrier is to stabilize steeply sloping land to allow cultivation with an acceptable level of erosion. In addition to erosion control, the practice provides improved water use efficiency, and other favorable hydrologic effects.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.